Projects under N.I.O.

5245. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects undertaken by NIO (Goa) during 1995 and 1996;

(b) whether NIO has any projects to cover Antarctica; and

(c) if so, the details of proposal and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) NIO carried out 92 projects during 1995-96 and has undertaken 99 projects in 1996-97. These projects have been broadly directed towards developing knowledge base relating to Physical, Chemical, Biological, Geological, Geophysical, Engineering and Pollution aspects of the seas around India to assist in the national endeavour of exploiting the sea resources. In 1995-96, of the 92 projects there were 49 sponsored and consultancy projects, 8 grant-in-aid projects and 7 projects with international collaboration besides 28 inhouse projects. In 1996-97, of the 99 projects, 28 are sponsored and consultancy projects, 33 grant-in-aid projects and 10 with international collaboration besides 28 in house projects.

(b) and (c) A major project at NIO pertains to Antarctic research with the objective to investigate the basic aspects of polar life in relation to environmental variability and physiological and bio-medical potential.

Mass Rapid Transport System

5246. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether MRTS (Mass Rapid Transport System) is to be handed over to the Ministry of Railways; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The planning and coordination of projects relating to Urban Transport was assigned to the Ministry of Urban Development (now Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment) in 1986. The Ministry of Railways have not asked for any change in this arrangement.

Oil and Gas Reserves

5247. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched an accelerated exploration programme to discover oil and gas reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where such reserves has been discovered; and

(d) the further plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In order to enhance exploration efforts and increase hydrocarbon reserves the Government launched an Accelerated Programme of Exploration (APEX) in 1994 involving an estimated expenditure of approx. Rs. 6500 crores. APEX has the following components :—

(a) Enhanced exploratory inputs.

(b) National Seismic Programme.

(c) Deep water exploration.

(d) Exploration in frontier areas.

(e) Acquisition of foreign acreage/farm-in.

(c) During the period 1994-96 oil and gas been found in about 29 locations spread ever the States of Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Eastern and Western offshore.

(d) The exploration efforts are planned to be intensified and accelerated through the national oil companies and participation of private companies/joint venture companies in exploration and development programmes.

[Translation]

Delimitation of National Capital Territory of Delhi

5248. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to delimit the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether schemes have been identified wherein the need of the participation of the private sector is felt; and